

THE ALMA RECORD

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H. S. BARCOCK

Editor

ELINOR G. BARCOCK, Associate Editor

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OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF ALMA, MICHIGAN

THE GAME OF GRAB

The old-fashioned game we used to play, called grab bag, may or may not be the mother of the new game of Grab. Be that as it may, this new game is becoming very popular, in all walks of life.

The thug hides in the alley to slug his victim on the head and grab his purse; the pickpocket mingles with the big crowd and grabs all he can urse and watches he can get away with; the bank robber drives up to the bank in broad day light, sticks a gun under the nose of the cashier, and grabs the bank funds. Thus we might go on indefinitely citing different features of the game, but that is unnecessary, because the password is well known, and is "Get something for nothing," whether we whisper it or say it aloud.

The world war brought this matter forcibly to our attention, because in almost every department of the government we found the grabbers entrenched, getting something for nothing, grafting off the people's money, and taking advantage of their country's misfortune.

The committee appointed by congress to investigate the building of cantonments has just made a report that the government was robbed of at least seventy-eight million dollars in this one undertaking. At our own Camp Custer the loss is reported to be \$5,086,649. The department of justice is instituting suit to recover this money, but that is a long and expensive process.

The committee goes into detail and makes the following statement of the definite loss at each camp:

Camp	Alleged Loss
Camp Lee, Va.	\$7,243,149
Camp Meade, Md.	\$7,073,327
Camp Upton, N. Y.	\$5,840,911
Camp Grant, Ill.	\$5,570,076
Camp Pike, Ark.	\$5,132,031
Camp Custer, Mich.	\$5,086,649
Camp Sherman, Ohio	\$5,034,095
Camp Dix, N. J.	\$4,981,503
Camp Jackson, S. C.	\$4,833,493
Camp Devens, Mass.	\$4,681,339
Camp Funston, Kan.	\$4,451,897
Camp Gordon, Ga.	\$4,422,979
Camp Dodge, Iowa.	\$3,938,745
Camp Lewis, Wash.	\$3,507,939
Camp Taylor, Ky.	\$3,387,225
Camp Travis, Texas	\$3,346,173

This is a condition which threatens the life of the nation, and stringent measures should be taken to put a stop to this game of grab that is going on.

The cause of it is a lack of honesty, and the extent of that lack, in the United States is astounding. We have bragged a lot about our wealth and ability, and we have cause to blush an equal amount for our lack of honesty. It is a great disgrace and a national menace.

The only cure for it lies in education and religious training, and there is a great need for both, for as a nation we are substituting Greed for God.

SCHOOL WEEK

Governor Sleeper recently issued a proclamation designating this as school week, for the reason that there is at present a shortage of teachers which threatens the entire school system.

The salaries of the teachers are so low when compared with other industries that they are positively ridiculous. During the past year many teachers have worked for salaries ranging from three to six hundred dollars per year, which is not enough to keep soul and body together under present conditions, and yet we expect teachers to dress well and teach our children, not only reading, writing, and arithmetic, but manners and morals as well.

The Department of Public Instruction at Lansing has filed a report which gives the following interesting data which should make us think, for upon the efficiency of the schools depends the welfare of the nation.

Reports from 59 counties, not including the incorporated cities and villages, indicate that in 534 districts teachers had been secured with great difficulty because of the low salaries paid. For 17 schools no teachers could be secured at all. The scale of salaries is suggestive:

Teachers receiving \$300 or less	H. S. Below H. S.
" " 300-399	7
" " 400-499	86
" " 500-599	621
" " 600-699	42 1476
" " 700-799	69 1539
" " 800-899	81 870
" " 900-999	67 335
" " 1000-1099	58 149

Only 59 grade teachers, an average of one in each county reporting, and 159 high school teachers receiving as much as \$1,000! 7 teachers receiving \$300 or less! 317 high school teachers and 5083 elementary grade teachers receiving less than \$1,000! And yet we talk of the high cost of living and long for teachers with more extended training!

In the 59 Michigan counties reporting, 682 teachers are this year teaching under special certificates (having less than the minimum requirements); 998 have had no previous experience, and 424 had been out of teaching work but returned merely to "help out."

PRACTICAL PROBLEMS

If a man an build abarn in forty days working steadily ten hours per day, how long will it take two men to build a similar barn lounging on the job six hours per day?

If five years ago a miner could dig a carload of coal working ten hours per day for six days in the week, how long will it take the same miner to reduce the price of coal by working six hours per day five days in the week and lounging around and complaining about the government the rest of the week?

If a young lady pays eighteen dollars for a pair of shoes with such high tops that she has to pay twenty-three dollars for a low neck waist, and forty-six dollars for a short skirt, in order to make a becoming exhibition of the shoe tops, how long will it take a young man to finish the payments on the hundred dollar overcoat he bought on tick last fall, and save money enough to make the first payment on a thirteen dollar hat, and a seventeen dollar silk shirt if he smokes two packages of eighteen cent cigarettes per day, and works between smokes.

These are practical problems of our social and industrial life and we must give the answer in dollars and sense—especially sense.

Suppose they did find that Mary Pickford got her divorce by fraud, and suppose Charlie Chaplin and his wife did separate, and Mrs. Charlie's manager gave Charlie a "good lickin'," that ain't going to change the uplifting tone of their acting any, nor lower the morals of the community where they live. No siree!

A lady was heard to remark the other day, "Women's dress is less and less becoming." Strange how people will get tangled up in their English. Undoubtedly what she meant, was "Women's dress is becoming less and less."

HIS CONSCIENCE IN REVOLT

Killer of Condors Refused to Practice Profession for Any Paltry Remuneration.

In his book, "In the Wilds of South America," Mr. Leo E. Miller tells us that when he went into Argentina on a collecting trip he found an Italian who claimed to be the champion condor hunter of all South America. During ten years he had killed more than sixteen thousand of the magnificent birds. His record for one day was 114. Naturally, they had become greatly reduced in number, for a condor lays no more than two eggs, and it takes many months to rear the young.

The man's method was to drive a burro to some lonely gorge among the bleak mountain tops favored by the birds and then kill the animal. He was very particular in stating that the burro had to be fat—a poor one would not do for bait. He then spread nets about the carcass, and when the condors had gathered about to feast he pulled a rope and ensnared them. On one occasion he secured 67 at one throw of the net. The captured birds were dispatched with a club and the long-winged feathers extracted, to be exported to France to decorate women's hats.

With his accumulated wealth he built a powder mill, but it promptly blew up, and he was virtually penniless. Of course there were condors in the mountains—in fact, he knew of a ledge where more than eight hundred birds were accustomed to congregate to spend the night, but the price of feathers had gone down 50 per cent. He ended his speech in a very dramatic manner.

"What," he said, "me go out and slaughter such a wonderful, magnificent and rare a bird as the condor for ten pesos each? No, señor! Not me!"

AROMA FROM THE BUTTERFLY

Perfumes Pleasant and Unpleasant to Human Nostrils Are Secreted by Both Male and Female.

Peculiarly transformed scales on the wings, or tufts of hairs on other parts of the butterfly exude an aromatic secretion, the secondary significance of which is that it appeals to the female insects. Some of the scents produced by the male Lepidoptera are pleasant to the human olfactory sense, resembling nark, mint, vanilla, honey, and the like; others are suggestive of mice and bats. It is interesting to note that in some cases, though gaudy larval scales are abundantly present, we cannot smell anything, which probably means that the aromatic substances lie outside our range of olfactory stimulation, just as many rays of light lie beyond our range of vision.

It may be that the volatile poison of toads, known as phrynia, inflames the olfactory membrane if we sniff it, yet there is no smell.

Emily Dickinson.

She was never known to have a lover. She seldom left her father's house in Amherst, Mass., and when she crossed its threshold it was to wander alone in the quiet garden. And she has written some of the most beautiful sonnets in modern literature. Her solitary life set into the frame of her glowing verse is the answer to the question, "What writers have to go through the varied phases of life to know 'love'?" Emily Dickinson was born in Amherst in 1830. She died there in 1882. Of her extraordinary verses that were solitary of new forms of expression, regardless of poetic rules, a prominent clergyman and distinguished author of New England, Thomas Wentworth Higginson, said: "When a thought takes your breath away, a lesson on grammar seems impertinence."—Chicago Journal.

Fortune Telling by Bones.

It is strange that in the Transvaal the belief in Kaffir doctors and their wizardry has not died out. Nearly every old Kaffir has always with him a bag of bones, knuckles and joints of animals. With these he pretends to be able to foretell the future. He throws the "bones" as they are called, and then reads out the omens. Should a white man wish to confer with the oracle, he must throw the bones himself. Many white men firmly believe in the ability of the Kaffir doctor to cure them from sundry ills, and in Rhodesia there have been many cases where the Kaffir doctors have saved whites from the ravages of the terrible fever that rages there. In addition to coping with the toothache and other ills.

Beauty Due to Geometry.

Why is a Greek statue, building or vase of the best period more beautiful than a statue, building or vase of any other nationality or period? Jay Hambidge, an American, thinks he knows. He says it is because every Greek work of art conforms to a definite geometrical proportion which he has discovered. Hambidge has profoundly impressed officials of the British museum and art authorities to the extent that the London Times carries two columns about his "dynamic symmetry" on the editorial page of its educational supplement.

Natural Proceeding.

"They had a hard time in that place with the actors representing the elements of the storm."
 "How so?"
 "The lightning struck."

Earth's Life Zones.

Biologists have divided the entire surface of the earth into life zones, each zone having about the same flora and fauna wherever found. The life zone in a given locality depends upon both latitude and elevation. Thus the Canadian life zone, which has everywhere plants and animals similar to those of Canada, is found in the high Rocky mountains as far south as southern Colorado and northern New Mexico.

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1:11-19

And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.

And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

And the evening and the morning were the third day.

And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:

And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so.

And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.

And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth,

And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good.

And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

Lavender Smokers.

Long before tobacco was known or smoked, sweet lavender was a favorite smoking mixture. Pipes have been dug up in Roman settlements, adorned with bas-reliefs picturing the lavender plant. From which it is surmised that the Romans smoked lavender, which, according to writers of the time is said to produce a feeling "active, ardent, and vigorous."

Wheat Berry Perfected.

Many of the present superior wheats produced in the United States were introduced into this country from Asia, Europe and South America, and acclimated to our country while undergoing the test. They have been bred and crossed until a berry has been secured which will adapt itself to the region requiring a wheat crop.

Jade Favorite Gem in China.

Light green jade is the favorite gem of China, and it is difficult to get the stone in uncut form even in that country. Sometimes a rich Chinaman's estate will consist in part of a lump of jade. Sometimes it can be obtained in pounds. But even the leading jewelers of Hongkong usually obtain it in cut form.

Have Wrong Idea.

People are often more concerned about creating a favorable impression than about the kind of person they wish to be considered. It is like demanding a beautiful photograph without regard to the features of the original.

Height of Conceit.

Experience is a good teacher, but some men are conceited enough to think that they can give Experience a few pointers.

How Diphtheria is Contracted.

One often hears the expression, "My child caught a severe cold which developed into diphtheria," when the truth was that the cold had simply left the little one open particularly susceptible to the wandering diphtheria germ. If your child has a cold when diphtheria is prevalent you should take him out of school and keep him off the street until fully recovered, as there is a hundred times more danger of his taking diphtheria when he has cold. When Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is given it quickly cures the cold and lessens the danger of diphtheria or any other germ disease being contracted.

Thursday, April 22, 1920
Is De Laval Service Day at Our Store

Come Early and Avoid Delays. Tell Your Neighbor.
 For the benefit of users of De Laval Cream Separators we have arranged

A De Laval Service Day

We urge that every De Laval user bring his complete separator to us for a careful inspection which will be made free of charge. Should any part, due to unusual wear or accident, need to be replaced this will be done, the only charge being for the price of the new parts used, no charge for service.

A De Laval Representative will be with us to assist with this important work. Bring in your Separator complete on the date mentioned and get benefit of his advice on the care and operation of your separator, as well as the free service. It is our wish and that of the De Laval Company that every De Laval Separator give the best satisfaction at the least cost, and we urge you to take advantage of this free and useful service.

W. C. PUGSLEY
 ELWELL, MICH.

42-2



ONCE IN YOUR LIFE you are in extreme danger. If that cough goes to your lungs, —What Then?

KEMP'S BALSAM might have prevented this illness and expense.

STOP THAT COUGH NOW with **KEMP'S BALSAM** Guaranteed.

Americanism

By LEONARD WOOD

It was in making education not only common to all, but in some sense compulsory on all, that the destiny of the free republic of America was practically settled.—James Russell Lowell: "New England Two Centuries Ago."

IGNORANCE is the enemy of democracy. Without our schools we might as well shut up our government and give it over either to anarchy or to despotism. It has been held by some persons that education breeds anarchy. Sound education does not. Anarchical ideas find their place in the brains of the ignorant. There are few men who have been students of government conditions and who have become anarchists. Others who preach direct action against democratic government are those whose brains are abnormal through whatever cause. They have not taken to heart the lessons of history.

Americanization means education. The unknowing and the unthinking must be taught to know and to think. In almost every case they will think right and act right. A school board properly conducted is a board of health. The fathers knew education's service to the cause of liberty. The schoolhouse and the statehouse of democracy were built together.

With the safety of a nation depending upon education there are still those among us who seemingly believe that the teacher is not worthy of a proper hire. There are men and women today into whose hands are entrusted the teaching of American children whose pay is less than the daily wage of the unskilled laborer.

On this subject of the pay of school teachers there are Americans who need Americanization. It is good to know that finally the people are waking up to the truth in the case. The waking, however, has been a slow process and no one can tell how soon sleep is to come again. It is Americanism which makes men and women seek the teaching profession for a livelihood. It should be Americanism's duty to see to it that the unselfish ones are rewarded properly for their unselfishness. The teachers are building the character of the citizens of tomorrow.

MICKIE SAYS

WHEN BUSINESS IS GOOD, I DON'T NEED TO ADVERTISE

WELL, HOW ABOUT WHEN BUSINESS IS PUNK?

THEN I CAN'T AFFORD TO!

MIGOSH! WHADDA YA THINK ADVERTISING IS? A LUXURY?!

Don't Delay
Buy Coal Now

Get ready for a jump in Anthracite Prices. Strike or no strike the hard coal miners' demands will increase the cost of mining at least \$1.00 a ton—to be passed on to the consumer.

We have some chestnut in transit on last year's contract. If you will place your order now and let us deliver from the car you will save the amount of the raise in price and will not need to worry about the effect of a strike on your next winter's supply.

We cannot leave this offer open indefinitely and reserve the right to withdraw it without notice.

Act Now and Save Now

Home Lumber & Fuel Co.



NATIONAL LIGHT OIL FOR INCUBATORS

An egg shell has hundreds of minute holes in it to admit air, so that the chick in progress of incubation breathes through these pores. It breathes, then, just that atmosphere which the oil gives it, during this period. National Light Oil insures a chick from every fertile egg.

A true money's worth is always assured when you buy here for quality is the first consideration.

E. C. CLAPP'S HARDWARE

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What Oil Husbandry Means to You

THE price of gasoline is high when compared to the price asked five years ago, but the price would be much higher if it were not for the long list of useful products made from that portion of the crude which is left after the gasoline and refined oils have been removed.

The Standard Oil Company (Indiana) makes a wide range of products from this residue—each product rendering a definite, useful service to mankind, and each bearing its share of the cost of production, thereby helping to keep down the price you pay for gasoline.

The petroleum chemists in the laboratories of the Standard Oil Company (Indiana) constantly are at work trying to develop new processes which will enable the Company to utilize every fraction of the crude oil, thus eliminating waste.

This means husbanding the country's resources by taking from the crude oil the maximum number of useful products, and recovering a maximum yield of each.

To do this is the constant aim of the Company.

Standard Oil Company
 (Indiana)

910 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago

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